

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE**

Second Session

MONDAY, 4 MAY 2020

No. 131

1.30 pm

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PRESENT:

Mr SPEAKER (Mr Tan Chuan-Jin (Marine Parade)).

Mr AMRIN AMIN (Sembawang), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health.

Mr ANG HIN KEE (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr ANG WEI NENG (Jurong).

Mr BAEY YAM KENG (Tampines), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth.

Miss CHERYL CHAN WEI LING (Fengshan).

Mr CHAN CHUN SING (Tanjong Pagar), Minister for Trade and Industry.

Mr CHEE HONG TAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Education.

Mr CHEN SHOW MAO (Aljunied).

Miss CHENG LI HUI (Tampines).

Dr CHIA SHI-LU (Tanjong Pagar).

Mr CHARLES CHONG (Punggol East), Deputy Speaker.

Mr CHONG KEE HIONG (Bishan-Toa Payoh).

Mr DESMOND CHOO (Tampines).

Mr DARRYL DAVID (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr CHRISTOPHER DE SOUZA (Holland-Bukit Timah).

Mr ARASU DURAISAMY (Nominated Member).

Mr CEDRIC FOO CHEE KENG (Pioneer).

Mr DOUGLAS FOO (Nominated Member).

Ms FOO MEE HAR (West Coast).

Ms GRACE FU HAI YIEN (Yuhua), Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Leader of the House.

Mr GAN KIM YONG (Chua Chu Kang), Minister for Health.

Mr GOH CHOK TONG (Marine Parade).

Assoc Prof DANIEL GOH PEI SIONG (Non-Constituency Member).

Mr HENG CHEE HOW (Jalan Besar), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence.

Mr HENG SWEE KEAT (Tampines), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance.

Mr TERENCE HO WEE SAN (Nominated Member).

Ms INDRANEE RAJAH (Tanjong Pagar), Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance and Second Minister for Education.

Dr INTAN AZURA MOKHTAR (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr S ISWARAN (West Coast), Minister for Communications and Information and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations.

Dr JANIL PUTHUCHEARY (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Communications and Information and Government Whip.

Mr KHAW BOON WAN (Sembawang), Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport.

Dr AMY KHOR LEAN SUAN (Hong Kah North), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources and Ministry of Health.

Dr KOH POH KOON (Ang Mo Kio), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Mr KWEK HIAN CHUAN HENRY (Nee Soon).

Dr LAM PIN MIN (Sengkang West), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Transport.

Er Dr LEE BEE WAH (Nee Soon).

Mr DESMOND LEE (Jurong), Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development and Deputy Leader of the House.

Mr LEE HSIEN LOONG (Ang Mo Kio), Prime Minister.

Mr LEE YI SHYAN (East Coast).

Mr LIANG ENG HWA (Holland-Bukit Timah).

Mr LIM BIOW CHUAN (Mountbatten), Deputy Speaker.

Mr LIM HNG KIANG (West Coast).

Prof LIM SUN SUN (Nominated Member).

Ms SYLVIA LIM (Aljunied).

Dr LIM WEE KIAK (Sembawang).

Ms LOW YEN LING (Chua Chu Kang), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower.

Mr MASAGOS ZULKIFLI B M M (Tampines), Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs.

Dr MOHAMAD MALIKI BIN OSMAN (East Coast), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr MOHAMED IRSHAD (Nominated Member).

Mr MUHAMAD FAISAL ABDUL MANAP (Aljunied).

Assoc Prof Dr MUHAMMAD FAISHAL IBRAHIM (Nee Soon), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social and Family Development.

Mr MURALI PILLAI (Bukit Batok).

Dr LILY NEO (Jalan Besar).

Mr NG CHEE MENG (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Minister, Prime Minister's Office.

Dr NG ENG HEN (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister for Defence.

Mr LOUIS NG KOK KWANG (Nee Soon).

Ms ANTHEA ONG (Nominated Member).

Mr ONG TENG KOON (Marsiling-Yew Tee).

Mr ONG YE KUNG (Sembawang), Minister for Education.

Ms JOAN PEREIRA (Tanjong Pagar).

Mr LEON PERERA (Non-Constituency Member).

Ms DENISE PHUA LAY PENG (Jalan Besar).

Mr PNG ENG HUAT (Hougang).

Mr PRITAM SINGH (Aljunied).

Ms RAHAYU MAHZAM (Jurong).

Mr SAKTIANDI SUPAAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh).

Mr SEAH KIAN PENG (Marine Parade).

Mr K SHANMUGAM (Nee Soon), Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law.

Ms SIM ANN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Deputy Government Whip.

Mr SITO H YIH PIN (Potong Pasir).

Ms SUN XUE LING (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development.

Mr DENNIS TAN LIP FONG (Non-Constituency Member).

Ms JESSICA TAN SOON NEO (East Coast).

Mr SAM TAN CHIN SIONG (Radin Mas), Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development.

Dr TAN WU MENG (Jurong), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Mr PATRICK TAY TECK GUAN (West Coast).

Mr TEO CHEE HEAN (Pasir Ris-Punggol), Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security.

Dr TEO HO PIN (Bukit Panjang).

Mrs JOSEPHINE TEO (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Home Affairs.

Mr TEO SER LUCK (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM (Jurong), Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies.

Assoc Prof WALTER THESEIRA (Nominated Member).

Ms TIN PEI LING (MacPherson).

Mr EDWIN TONG CHUN FAI (Marine Parade), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Health.

Mr VIKRAM NAIR (Sembawang).

Dr VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr LAWRENCE WONG (Marsiling-Yew Tee), Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance.

Prof YAACOB IBRAHIM (Jalan Besar).

Mr ALEX YAM ZIMING (Marsiling-Yew Tee).

Mr YEE CHIA HSING (Chua Chu Kang).

Mr MELVIN YONG YIK CHYE (Tanjong Pagar).

Mr ZAINAL SAPARI (Pasir Ris-Punggol).

Mr ZAQY MOHAMAD (Chua Chu Kang), Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Manpower and Deputy Government Whip.

ABSENT:

Prof FATIMAH LATEEF (Marine Parade).

Mr GAN THIAM POH (Ang Mo Kio).

Mr LIM SWEE SAY (East Coast).

Mr LOW THIA KHIANG (Aljunied).

Ms IRENE QUAY SIEW CHING (Nominated Member).

Ms YIP PIN XIU (Nominated Member).

- 1 Papers presented to Parliament and received by the Clerk of Parliament pursuant to Standing Order No. 31 (Presentation of Papers) and ordered to lie upon the Table:
- 1.1 COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 9 April 2020 (S. L. 796 of 2020).
 - 1.2 Central Provident Fund (Refunds) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 9 April 2020 (S. L. 797 of 2020).
 - 1.3 Central Provident Fund (Revised Retirement Sum Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 9 April 2020 (S. L. 798 of 2020).
 - 1.4 Central Provident Fund (Retirement Sum Topping-Up Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 9 April 2020 (S. L. 799 of 2020).
 - 1.5 Central Provident Fund (Retirement Sum Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 9 April 2020 (S. L. 800 of 2020).
 - 1.6 Central Provident Fund (MediSave Account Withdrawals) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 9 April 2020 (S. L. 801 of 2020).
 - 1.7 Central Provident Fund (New Retirement Sum Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 9 April 2020 (S. L. 802 of 2020).
 - 1.8 Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Hindu Endowments (Amendment) Bill [Bill No 8/2020] – Presented on 13 April 2020 (Pres. Co. 164 of 2020).
 - 1.9 Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Wild Animals and Birds (Amendment) Bill [Bill No 15/2020] – Presented on 13 April 2020 (Pres. Co. 165 of 2020).
 - 1.10 Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Merchant Shipping (Maritime Labour Convention) (Amendment) Bill [Bill No 1/2020] – Presented on 13 April 2020 (Pres. Co. 166 of 2020).
 - 1.11 Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the Goods and Services Tax Voucher Fund (Amendment) Bill [Bill No 14/2020] – Presented on 13 April 2020 (Pres. Co. 167 of 2020).
 - 1.12 Report of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights on the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 [No 19/2020] – Presented on 13 April 2020 (Pres. Co. 168 of 2020).
 - 1.13 Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Rules 2020 – Presented on 13 April 2020 (S. L. 803 of 2020).
 - 1.14 Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Construction and Use) (Amendment) Rules 2020 – Presented on 13 April 2020 (S. L. 804 of 2020).

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- 1.15 Road Traffic (Expressways - Excluded Vehicles) (Amendment) Rules 2020 – Presented on 13 April 2020 (S. L. 805 of 2020).
 - 1.16 Food (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 21 April 2020 (S. L. 806 of 2020).
 - 1.17 MediShield Life Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 21 April 2020 (S. L. 807 of 2020).
 - 1.18 MediShield Life Scheme (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 21 April 2020 (S. L. 808 of 2020).
 - 1.19 COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 21 April 2020 (S. L. 809 of 2020).
 - 1.20 COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 21 April 2020 (S. L. 810 of 2020).
 - 1.21 COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) (Amendment No. 3) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 21 April 2020 (S. L. 811 of 2020).
 - 1.22 COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 21 April 2020 (S. L. 812 of 2020).
 - 1.23 COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020 (Amendment of Schedule) Order 2020 – Presented on 22 April 2020 (S. L. 813 of 2020).
 - 1.24 United Nations (Sanctions - Democratic Republic of the Congo) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 24 April 2020 (S. L. 814 of 2020).
 - 1.25 United Nations (Sanctions - South Sudan) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 24 April 2020 (S. L. 815 of 2020).
 - 1.26 United Nations (Sanctions - Iran) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 24 April 2020 (S. L. 816 of 2020).
 - 1.27 Road Traffic (International Circulation) (Amendment) Rules 2020 – Presented on 24 April 2020 (S. L. 817 of 2020).
 - 1.28 Active Mobility (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 818 of 2020).
 - 1.29 Active Mobility (Dealing in Personal Mobility Devices and Mobility Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 819 of 2020).
 - 1.30 Active Mobility (Registration of Registrable Personal Mobility Devices) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 820 of 2020).

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- 1.31 Active Mobility (Mandatory Testing) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 821 of 2020).
 - 1.32 Road Traffic (Dealing in Power-Assisted Bicycles) (Amendment) Rules 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 822 of 2020).
 - 1.33 Air Navigation (91 - General Operating Rules) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 823 of 2020).
 - 1.34 Air Navigation (98 - Special Operations) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 824 of 2020).
 - 1.35 Air Navigation (119 - Air Operator Certification) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 825 of 2020).
 - 1.36 Air Navigation (121 - Commercial Air Transport by Large Aeroplanes) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 826 of 2020).
 - 1.37 Air Navigation (125 - Complex General Aviation) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 827 of 2020).
 - 1.38 Air Navigation (135 - Commercial Air Transport by Helicopters and Small Aeroplanes) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 828 of 2020).
 - 1.39 Air Navigation (137 - Aerial Work) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 27 April 2020 (S. L. 829 of 2020).
 - 1.40 Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) Annual Report 2019 – Presented on 28 April 2020 (Misc. 17 of 2020).
 - 1.41 Road Traffic (Motor Vehicles, Driving Licences) (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2020 – Presented on 29 April 2020 (S. L. 830 of 2020).
 - 1.42 Land Surveyors Board Singapore Annual Report 2019 – Presented on 30 April 2020 (S. 537 of 2020).
 - 1.43 Building Control (Buildability and Productivity) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 – Presented on 30 April 2020 (S. L. 831 of 2020).
- 2 Announcement by Speaker – Mr Speaker made the following communication to the House:-

"Hon Members, today is the mid-way point of the extended circuit breaker period in Singapore's fight against COVID-19. I am heartened to see that Singaporeans have, by and large, remained steadfast in cooperating with all the various measures imposed. Some citizens and private enterprises have even embarked on their own ground-up initiatives to do their part in looking out for the well-being of the most vulnerable in our communities and keeping them safe. This is indeed the SG United spirit in action that will make Singapore emerge better and stronger from this crisis.

As I have said before, and it bears repeating, the onus remains on us, parliamentarians, to continue to lead in critical times both within this Chamber and within our communities. It will not be business as usual as we find different ways of remaining connected to our constituents in carrying out our roles and responsibilities. But those roles and responsibilities are real. But even as we do so, we stand in solidarity with all Singaporeans in supporting and adhering to the Government's circuit breaker measures as these are adjusted with time and depending on the prevailing situation. All Members from today will wear masks within Parliament House and only remove them temporarily while delivering speeches in the Chamber so you can be heard clearly.

Whatever challenging circumstances we face as a nation, the essential and fundamental role of Parliament continues. All over the world, other parliaments are similarly doing their best to persevere despite the extraordinary COVID-19 times we are living in. And our Parliament in Singapore can do no less.

This is why the Bill that the Leader of the House will be introducing today is timely and significant. In the current climate of uncertainty brought about by COVID-19, it is imperative that we prepare for exigencies, such as the scenario where it is impossible, it is unsafe or inexpedient for all Members to meet at one place for parliamentary proceedings. So, we must be primed and ready to swiftly respond should such exigencies happen. The Bill therefore proposes an amendment to the Constitution to establish a legal framework for arrangements to be made for Parliament and its committees to meet and despatch business; with Members being present at two or more appointed places, if necessary, under continuity arrangements.

As Speaker, I have provided my views and advice on the parliamentary law and procedures to be considered at the drafting of the Bill. The ultimate form and modalities of such continuity arrangements would be looked into once the Bill is passed. For now, I look forward to hearing any views Members may have on the Bill, on how such continuity arrangements can best serve our work in Parliament when exigencies arise.

In tackling the evolving COVID-19 situation, what must remain constant is that we must always be planning and preparing in advance the best that we can. We must remember that this pandemic outbreak is unprecedented in scale. Should the worst-case scenario happens, we will work in concert in executing these contingencies, with the safety and well-being of one another, our families and loved ones always being of the utmost priority.

We will learn where we can from other countries and other parliaments, and implement what works best in our Singapore context.

We must not let our collective Singapore can-do spirit succumb to this virus now. When, and not if, this crisis is over, we must remain vigilant and tackle any new or emergent threats head-on with the same resolve and fortitude. This is how we will always be able to "Majulah Singapura!", confidently advancing onward as a nation and as a society.

Before I begin, maybe if I could, on behalf of the House as well, to convey our best regards to Mr Low Thia Khiang who is warded in ICU and we wish him the speediest recovery. Our thoughts are with him."

- 3 12 Questions for Oral Answer were answered during Question Time. With leave of Speaker, 21 other Questions for Oral Answer were addressed in the subsequent Ministerial Statements.
- 4 Ministerial Statements – Second Update on Whole-of-Government Response to COVID-19 – (Minister for Health, Minister for National Development and Minister for Manpower).

- 5 Small Motorised Vehicles (Safety) Bill – "to control the import of motorised personal mobility devices, power-assisted bicycles and other similar motorised vehicles, and to make related amendments to certain other land transport Acts regarding the payment of moneys into the Consolidated Fund" – President's recommendation signified and Bill presented by the Senior Minister of State (Dr Lam Pin Min), on behalf of the Minister for Transport; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 21/2020].
- 6 Active Mobility (Amendment No. 2) Bill – "to amend the Active Mobility Act 2017 (Act 3 of 2017) to deal with public paths and seized personal mobility devices and other vehicles and to make a similar related amendment to the Road Traffic Act (Chapter 276 of the 2004 Revised Edition)" – presented by the Senior Minister of State (Dr Lam Pin Min), on behalf of the Minister for Transport; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 22/2020].
- 7 High Court (Admiralty Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Bill – "to amend the High Court (Admiralty Jurisdiction) Act (Chapter 123 of the 2001 Revised Edition) and to make a related amendment to the Merchant Shipping Act (Chapter 179 of the 1996 Revised Edition)" – presented by the Senior Minister of State, on behalf of the Minister for Law; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 23/2020].
- 8 Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Bill – "to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (1999 Reprint)" – presented by the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Leader of the House; read the first time; on a Certificate of Urgency under Standing Order No. 86, to be read a second time on 5 May 2020 – (Copies of the Bill handed to Members present). [Bill No. 24/2020].
- 9 COVID-19 (Temporary Measures for Solemnization and Registration of Marriages) Bill – "to provide for the use of remote communication technology in matters relating to the solemnization and registration of marriages under the Women's Charter (Chapter 353 of the 2009 Revised Edition) and relating to marriages and the revocation of divorces under the Administration of Muslim Law Act (Chapter 3 of the 2009 Revised Edition), and related matters, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic" – presented by the Minister for Social and Family Development; read the first time; on a Certificate of Urgency under Standing Order No. 86, to be read a second time on 5 May 2020 – (Copies of the Bill handed to Members present). [Bill No. 25/2020].
- 10 Rearrangement of Business – (Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, "That the proceedings on item 2 on the Order Paper for today be taken now."
- 11 Parliamentary Elections (COVID-19 Special Arrangements) Bill – (Minister for Trade and Industry, on behalf of the Prime Minister) – Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."; Debate arising.
- 12 Exempted Business – (Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, "That the proceedings on the business set down on the Order Paper for today be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order No. 2."

- 13 Parliamentary Elections (COVID-19 Special Arrangements) Bill – (Minister for Trade and Industry, on behalf of the Prime Minister) – Debate resumed on Question, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question put and agreed to. Bill read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill – (Minister for Trade and Industry, on behalf of the Prime Minister).

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 10 inclusive agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Bill reported, without amendment; read a third time.

- 14 Adjournment – (Deputy Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Parliament do now adjourn."; Debate arising.

On Question put – Resolved, "That Parliament do now adjourn."

Adjourned at 8.17 pm

TAN CHUAN-JIN,
Speaker

MEMORANDUM

Mr Speaker will take the Chair again at 1.30 pm on Tuesday, 5 May 2020.
